

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 ACDA-05 L-03 SS-15

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02 /076 W

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R 121227Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2497

INFO AMB ABU DHABI UAE 0417

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

DOD WASHINGTON DC

CNO WASHINGTON DC

CONFIDENTIAL MANAMA 1148

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : FIRST LOCAL NEWS STORY ON MIDDLE EAST

FORCE DEPARTURE

OCTOBER 12 EDITION WEEKLY GULF MIRROR OUT WITH FOLLOWING STORY:

HEADLINE: QTE U.S. NAVY TO QUIT BY 1977 UNQTE

TEXT OF ARTICLE:

QTE AMERICAN NAVAL UNITS MAKING USE OF THE RENTED FACILITY AT

BAHRAIN'S MINA SULMAN ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND IN

MID-1977.

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS

IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

HAS ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAYING THAT IT IS WITHIN THE

TERMS OF THE 1971 AGREEMENT THAT EITHER GOVERNMENT MAY

TERMINATE IT.

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THE STATEMENT CONTINUED: " THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD

US IT WOULD LIKE TO PHASE OUT THE U.S. NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE DURING 1977. WE ARE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT ON THIS, IN THE SPIRIT OF CLOSE, FRIENDLY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES OVER MANY YEARS".

THE 1971 AGREEMENT, WHICH IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT, HAS A ONE YEAR NOTICE CLAUSE, SO DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR FINAL DECISIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

MEANWHILE, NEW RENTAL TERMS FOR THE FACILITY HAVE STILL NOT BEEN FINALISED.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE TOLD THE GULF MIRROR THAT RENTAL HAD INITIALLY BEEN AROUND \$600,000 PER YEAR.

THE U.S. NAVY HAD HOWEVER AGREED WITH THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT IT WOULD ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN RENTAL TO \$4 MILLION A YEAR, BACK-DATED TO JULY 1974. CONGRESS HAS NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION.

UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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